



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Four Georgia Health Partnerships Receive \$853,088 in Grants**  
***Commissioner Awards Grants to Foster Health Information Exchange***

**ATLANTA** – At the monthly meeting of the Health Information Technology and Transparency (HITT) Board, Dr. Rhonda Medows, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), announced the awardees of \$853,088 in health information exchange (HIE) grants. The grants awarded to Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council, Inc., East Georgia Health Care Center, Inc., Sumter Regional Hospital, and Washington County Regional Medical Center and Extended Care Facility will help foster the development of HIE, electronic prescribing, and/or adoption of electronic medical records across Georgia.

“Through their proposals, the Georgia HIE Grant awardees exemplified the principles and strategies of health information technology and exchange,” said Dr. Medows. “The four health partnerships will drive improvements in health care quality, safety and efficiency.”

Grantee	Amount	Grant Project
Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council, Inc.	\$272,588	Planning and implementation of an electronic medical record and e-prescribing
East Georgia Health Care Center, Inc.	\$250,000	Planning and implementation of e-prescribing
Sumter Regional Hospital	\$250,000	Planning and implementation of an electronic medical record
Washington County Regional Medical Center and Extended Care Facility	\$80,500	Planning of an electronic medical record

The Georgia HIE grantees aim to improve access to comprehensive patient health information created by multiple providers and to decrease prescription errors linked to illegible handwriting or insufficient information. The awardees will at least match the funds given to them by the state.

On October 17, 2006, Governor Sonny Perdue signed an Executive Order creating the HITT Board to advise DCH on the best practices for encouraging the use of electronic health records and establishing a statewide strategy to enable health information to be readily available and transparent. The announcement of the Georgia HIE Grants is based on recommendations from the HITT Advisory Board.

For more information about the Georgia HITT Initiative, visit [www.dch.georgia.gov](http://www.dch.georgia.gov).

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